

# Agricultural Situation

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## 1963 CROP PRODUCTION— A NEW RECORD SET

*"Every year hath its winter,  
And every year, its rain—"*

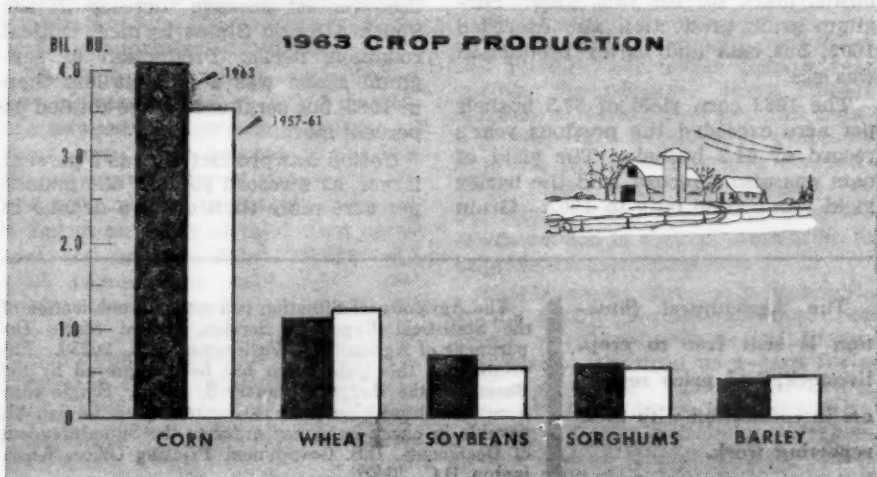
And so it was in 1963, a year when moisture shortages were widespread, but timely rains kept crops growing in most areas to spur the largest crop production totals of record.

The 1963 *Annual Crop Summary*, released at 3 p.m. on December 18, gives the details in 114 pages of words and figures.

The all-crop production index of 112 for 1963 compares to 107 in 1962 and

the previous high of 108 in 1960. A closer look reveals that 1963 totals were larger than 1962 for feed grains, food grains, oilseeds, cotton, sugar crops, seed crops, and fruits and nuts. Hay, tobacco, and miscellaneous crop production totals were smaller, while total vegetable output about equaled that of 1962.

Below normal rainfall characterized the 1963 growing season for most of the Nation east of the Rocky Mountains. Spring planting progressed rapidly, but



soil moisture became short in May in several areas. Timely rains in June in the southern part of the Nation and in July in the northern part provided moisture at critical stages for most crops. Rains missed some spots, but the only areas with extended crop damage were in the Southern Plains and in the Mid-Atlantic States. Crop production in the Western States turned out better than expected, as unusual summer rains relieved threatened irrigation water shortages. A delayed frost date and good fall weather permitted full maturity and harvest of all crops with little difficulty.

Crops, planted for 1963 harvest, totaled 309 million acres or 2.5 percent larger than the record low in 1962. Allotments of wheat were increased 10 percent, and diversion of acreage under the Feed Grain Program was less than in 1962. A decrease of 10 percent in cotton allotments partly offset these increases.

Farmers harvested 293 million acres in 1963 or 1.9 percent more than the previous year, but less than any other year since records began in 1909. Harvested acreage did not increase as much as acreage planted, because loss after planting was the largest since 1956 (chiefly the result of heavy winter wheat abandonment).

*Total tonnage of the four feed grains* increased 9 percent in 1963 over the year before. Corn passed the 4 billion bushel mark for the first time. Sorghum grain production also exceeded 1962, but oats and barley production was less.

The 1963 corn yield of 67.3 bushels per acre exceeded the previous year's record of 64.2 bushels. The yield of oats was also a record, and the barley yield was second only to 1962. Grain

sorghum output per acre was third high of record. Corn and sorghum acreages increased from 1962 to 1963, but barley and oats were harvested from fewer acres.

*Food grain tonnage* increased 3 percent in 1963 following declines in the preceding two years. Production of winter wheat, the major food grain, was 10 percent larger resulting from an acreage increase and a yield of 26.1 bushels per acre (fourth highest of record). Spring wheat production was 15 percent less than 1962 with reduction in both durum and other spring wheats. Rice production set a new record for the second consecutive year, but rye output dropped nearly three-tenths below the large 1962 crop.

*Oilseed production* totaled 5 percent larger than 1962 with flaxseed the only major oilseed crop showing a decline. Soybean output reached a new high, 3 percent larger than the previous record in 1961. Cottonseed production was 6 percent more than 1962, as a higher yield more than offset a smaller acreage. Peanut output increased 9 percent from 1962 to become the largest crop since 1950.

*Total hay production* was 4 percent less than 1962's record crop, but only slightly less than average. Persistent drought in the Mid-Atlantic area lowered hay production and caused critical hay shortages for the 1963-64 feeding season. Corn silage production was 8 percent larger in 1963 with the greatest acreage increase in the South Atlantic States to meet critical roughage needs. Production of sorghum silage was 2 percent less than in 1962, but sorghum forage totaled 14 percent more.

*Cotton lint production* was 5 percent larger, as a record yield of 524 pounds per acre more than offset a decline in

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acreage. The *all tobacco poundage* total was 2 percent less than in 1962 with a smaller crop of flue-cured, the major tobacco type, but a record output of burley.

*Sugar crops* set new records with sugar beet production 27 percent larger than in 1962, and the third consecutive record. Sugarcane production was 21 percent more than in 1962 and exceeded all earlier years.

*Dry bean* production in 1963 reached a new high of 11 percent more than in 1962 and surpassed the previous record of 1961 by 2 percent. *Popcorn* production was 40 percent less than in 1962 and the smallest crop since 1957. *Dry pea* production was 4 percent less than 1962's large crop, but 32 percent more than average. Combined output of 26 seed crops totaled 1 percent more than in 1962, but 7 percent less than average.

*Potato* production was 3 percent larger than in 1962, but 6 percent smaller than the record 1961 crop. Production of *sweetpotatoes* was 17 percent less than in 1962. *Fresh vegetable* output was 2 percent larger than in 1962, but *vegetables for processing* dropped 15 percent, with much of the decline the result of a sharp reduction in tomatoes from the record 1962 crop.

*Noncitrus fruit* production was 1 percent larger than in 1962, but output of edible nuts reached a record total, 73 percent larger than in 1962 and one third more than average.

The total picture for 1963 crop production adds up to a new high. As the season closes we wish to thank all crop reporters and other people who helped with the crop estimating program of the Department.

C. E. Burkhead  
Statistical Reporting Service

## 1964 Acreage Marketing Guides • • • Spring Vegetables, Melons, Potatoes

The plantings of every farmer have a bearing on the ultimate market for his product. USDA Acreage-Marketing Guides are designed to help vegetable and potato growers plan their plantings so that total production of each commodity will balance with market needs. The Acreage-Marketing Guides give recommended changes in acres planted to improve marketing prospects. They also provide growers with background information on which each recommendation is based.

The 1964 spring guides cover 16 commercial vegetables. In total, growers are advised to decrease plantings of these crops by 3 percent from 1963. Excessive production of some vegetables and poor harvest timing of others resulted in an array of marketing problems last spring. Prices received for most commodities were below 1962 levels. Under normal conditions the acreages recommended in the 1964 guides would result in a 5 percent reduction in total spring vegetable supplies. This reduction would improve prospects for favorable marketing conditions next spring.

Many watermelon sales were made at distress prices last spring and more than a half million hundredweight of the Florida crop was abandoned. The 1964 guide suggests a 15 percent cut in Florida watermelon acreage. The 1963 spring cantaloup market benefited from good harvest timing and below-normal competition, and this crop sold at favorable prices. Growers are advised to hold cantaloup acreage equal to 1963.

Record-high yields marked the 1963 spring potato season and production was substantially larger than a year earlier. Furthermore, heavy storage supplies of northern-grown fall potatoes and large holdings of processed products provided intensive competition. Prices were low. Acreage reductions of from 2 to 15 percent are recommended in spring potato areas to improve the market outlook.

This summary gives only highlights of the USDA recommendations. For details, you should see your local Extension agent. Or drop us a card for a free copy of the "Acreage-Marketing Guides." Our address is: *Agricultural Situation, OMS, Division of Information, USDA, Washington, D.C., 20250.*

# outlook



Total agricultural assets showed a rise, on January 1, 1964, of more than 4 percent from the \$216.5 billion a year earlier. This primarily reflects increased land values—also, ownership of livestock and machinery is up somewhat. Production assets per farm are rising rapidly, and output per farm is increasing about 5 percent annually, more than offsetting the continuing decline in the number of farms.

## LIVESTOCK

Beef production will continue large in the first quarter of 1964. Prices of fat cattle likely will remain \$1-\$2 below the January-March 1963 average of \$25.28 (Choice steers at Chicago). The number of cattle slaughtered will be up, and average liveweights are expected to continue heavy. First quarter 1964 hog slaughter, and prices likely will be much the same as a year earlier. Slaughter of sheep and lambs in the first quarter is expected to average below a year earlier, but prices may be little changed.

## SOYBEANS

Prices to soybean growers averaged \$2.61 per bushel during October-November 1963, about 35 cents above the same months in 1962. Prices are expected to continue strong throughout the 1963-64 marketing year; all the 1963 crop probably will be needed to meet domestic and export demands. Soybean oil prices have declined slightly since October, while soybean meal prices have remained relatively stable.

Record disappearance during 1963-64 is expected for both soybean oil and meal. Nevertheless, soybean oil stocks will continue heavy.

## DAIRY

Milk production during the first quarter of 1964 will likely be below a year earlier on a daily basis. The quantity of manufactured dairy products acquired under CCC programs this quarter is expected to drop moderately from a year ago. Prices farmers receive for all milk at wholesale this quarter are expected to be slightly above a year ago.

## EGGS

Egg production in 1964 is expected to be up a little from last year. Most of the rise may be in the first half. A higher rate of lay in the first quarter and a greater number of layers in the second quarter is anticipated. Egg prices for the first half may average below a year earlier because of the larger production.

## COTTON

Cotton carryover on August 1, 1963, totaled 11.2 million bales. This was over 3 million bales more than a year earlier and the largest since 1957. A further increase is expected this season because the large 1963 crop exceeds expected disappearance. As of December 1, the 1963 crop was estimated at 15.5 million running bales. This is about 700,000 bales larger than in 1962 and the largest since 1953. The average 1963 yield per harvested acre, as of De-

cember 1, was estimated at 524 pounds, up from 457 in 1962. Disappearance during the current season is estimated at 13.8 million bales, up about 2 million from a year earlier. Both mill consumption and exports are expected to increase.

### **BROILERS**

Another increase in broiler production is likely in 1964. Recent hatchery activity indicates that production during the first quarter will be significantly above a year earlier. However, output in the second quarter may be limited by lower first quarter prices and competition from beef.

### **FRUIT**

Supplies of most fresh fruits are expected to be somewhat smaller this winter than last. Reductions will be in pears, grapes, oranges, and grapefruit. Apple and lemon supplies are larger. Supplies of canned and frozen fruits and frozen fruit juices, especially frozen orange concentrate, for this winter are smaller than a year ago. Retail prices of most fresh and processed fruits are expected to continue above year-earlier levels.

### **VEGETABLES**

Supplies of canned and frozen vegetables into mid-1964 will be only slightly smaller than a year earlier. Potato supplies are a little larger than a year ago. Sweetpotato supplies into spring will be smaller than a year earlier, and prices are expected to be moderately higher.

### **FEED GRAINS**

Feed grain production was estimated in December at 156 million tons, 13 million above 1962. Both acreage and yield per acre increased about 4 percent. The 62.5 million tons carried over into 1963-64 was 9.3 million less than a year earlier. Although feed grain supply is up slightly, use is also increasing. Carryover stocks at the end of the 1963-64 marketing year may be about the same as at the beginning.

### **WHEAT**

Exports of wheat continue to run well above the level of a year ago. Exports in July-November 1963 were about 100 million bushels above the 221 million a year earlier. Prices received by farmers leveled in November after rising sharply from September. However, they continue high, relative to the 1963 loan rate. The acreage seeded to winter wheat totaled 43 million acres, about 1 percent above the 5-year average. As a result, the 1964 winter wheat crop is estimated to be 959 million bushels (as of Dec. 1).

### **TURKEYS**

A small to moderate rise in turkey production is expected this year. Reasons: Higher prices last year than in 1962 and an apparent increase in production efficiency, and a breeder flock large enough to support a sizable increase. A moderately larger crop than in 1963 would probably command a price about as high as in 1963.

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## **Highlights of the Dec. Pig Crop Report**

The number of hogs and pigs of all ages on farms in the United States on December 1, 1963, totaled 61.3 million head. This is a decrease of 4 percent from the 63.7 million head on farms a year earlier, according to the Crop Reporting Board. Of this number, 85 percent or 52.1 million head were reported as "other hogs" and the remainder were "being kept for breeding."

The June-November 1963 pig crop of 42.8 million head was 4 percent less

than the 1962 crop of 44.6 million head. The June-November 1963 crop combined with the December 1962-May 1963 crop makes a U.S. total pig crop of 93.0 million head, 1 percent less than the 1962 total pig crop. Reports based on farmers' intentions indicate that during the December 1963-May 1964 period, 6.6 million sows will farrow, 6 percent less than the 7.0 million sows that farrowed in the same period a year earlier.

# 1963 COMMERCIAL APPLE PRODUCTION BY VARIETIES

The Nation's four leading varieties are Delicious, McIntosh, Golden Delicious, and Rome Beauty—all winter varieties. In 1963, these accounted for 67.4 million bushels or 55 percent of the total apple crop. The crop of these varieties was up from the 64.1 million bushels or 51 percent of total of the year before. Production of Delicious and Golden Delicious apples continued to increase in importance with the latter making rapid gains. Golden Delicious production ranked fourth in 1962 and moved to third place in 1963. Prior to 1958, it ranked seventh or lower.

The Delicious variety, now making up over one-fourth of the Nation's total apple output, held firmly to first place in 1963, with 31.5 million bushels harvested, up 9 percent from 1962. The McIntosh variety is a strong second and has made steady gains in recent years. Production of Rome Beauty apples, the fourth ranking producer, accounted for 8.9 million bushels in 1963, down 3 percent from last year but still above average.

The fifth, sixth, and seventh ranking varieties in that order are: Jonathan, Winesap, and York. Jonathan and York production has held relatively stable in recent years, while production of Winesap has declined rather significantly.

Production of *summer varieties* totaled 3.4 million bushels, down 43 percent from 1962 and 32 percent below average. This was due in large part to the very poor set and short crop of Gravensteins in California (less than one-third of last year).

Production of *fall varieties* totaled 11.9 million bushels, down 3 percent from last year. Output of the Jonathan variety was comparable to 1962 but production of Grimes Golden apples was well below last year with only North Carolina showing an increase for this variety.

The *winter apple production* picture in total was unchanged from 1962. Production of these varieties totaled 107.4 million bushels, the same as in

1962 and 4 percent above average. They accounted for 88 percent of total commercial apple production in 1963, compared with 86 percent last year and 85 percent for the average.

The Nation's 1963 commercial apple crop totaled 122.7 million bushels, off 2 percent from last year, but 1 percent above average. Production in the State of Washington continues upward and a crop of 29.2 million bushels was harvested, up 7.8 million bushels or 36 percent over 1962. All other major producing States harvested smaller crops than in 1962. The Eastern States' crop was 57.6 million bushels, down 8 percent. The Central States' crop, of 21.6 million bushels, was down 14 percent from 1962.

Severe winter freezes damaged fruiting buds over a large area of the Central States. Freezes and frost damage in late May further reduced crop prospects in these States and most Eastern States other than New England. Orchards located near the Great Lakes were not seriously affected. Dry weather extended over a major portion of the Central and Eastern States during late summer and early fall months to cause additional damage to the crop.

Here are the five leading commercial apple producing States of 1963 in order, as well as the State production, and the leading varieties:

(1) *Washington*, 29.2 million bushels (Delicious, Winesap, and Golden Delicious).

(2) *New York*, 21.0 million bushels (McIntosh, R.I. Greening, and Cortland).

(3) *Michigan*, 12.0 million bushels (Jonathan, McIntosh, and Northern Spy).

(4) *Virginia*, 8.8 million bushels (York Imperial, Delicious, and Stayman).

(5) *California*, 8.2 million bushels (Yellow Newtown or Albermarle Pippin, Delicious, and Rome Beauty).

These five States accounted for 79.2 million bushels in 1963 or 65 percent of the Nation's total compared with 62 percent of the total in 1962.

Coyle Whitworth  
Statistical Reporting Service

## PEANUT SUPPLY IS THE LARGEST SINCE 1948

The supply of peanuts (farmers' stock basis) during the 1963-64 marketing year that began August 1, 1963, is 2,345 million pounds, 8 percent more than the year before and the largest since the 1948-49 season.

The 1963 peanut crop was 1,975 million pounds compared with 1,810 million in 1962. The increase is due entirely to record yields in the Southeastern area of the peanut belt, since yield per acre and production are down in both the Virginia-Carolina and Southwestern producing areas. The U.S. average yield per acre is 1,401 pounds and exceeds by 119 pounds the previous record yield in 1962. The 1963 acreage picked and threshed at 1,410,000 acres was about the same as last year. Acreage allotments for 1963-crop peanuts were again at the legal minimum of 1,610,000 acres for picking and threshing.

The season average price received by farmers for 1963-crop peanuts is estimated at 11.2 cents per pound compared with 11.0 cents the year before.

Civilian consumption of peanuts has increased in recent years, rising from 5.8 pounds per person in 1955-56 to 7.0 pounds, farmers' stock basis (5.0 pounds shelled basis) in 1962-63. Of the 7 pounds per capita, about 6 are consumed as peanut butter, salted peanuts, and in candy. The other pound is divided almost equally between roasted peanuts (the ball-park type) and those used as food on farms.

The consumption rate of 7.0 pounds per person is expected to continue during the 1963-64 marketing year. Assuming a 2 percent increase in total peanut consumption and about the same farm use as in recent years, about 500 million pounds or about 25 percent of the 1963 peanut crop will be acquired by CCC. Both peanut crushings during 1963-64 and carryover stocks on July 31, 1964, are expected to increase.

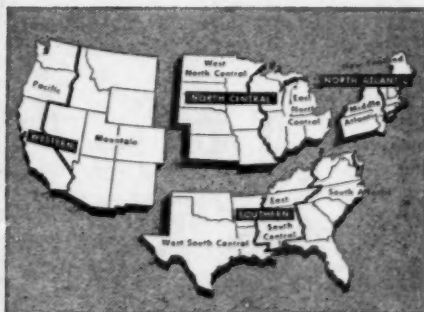
George W. Kromer  
*Economic Research Service*

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### The Farmer's Share

In October the farmers' share of the consumer's food dollar was 37 cents, 1 cent more than it was in September and 1 cent less than it was a year earlier.

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